



*Always Ready
Always There*

The Gem State Guardian

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Idaho Air Guard honors Boise, Meridian on aircraft

By Col. Tim Marsano, Idaho National Guard Public Affairs

On Friday, May 15, the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing unveiled 'nose art' on two of its A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft.

Boise Mayor Dave Bieter and Meridian Mayor Tammy DeWeerd attended the ceremony, in which the two aircraft honored their communities with the names of those cities on the nose of the two aircraft.

These are the first two Idaho communities to be honored in this way; more are expected to follow in later ceremonies.

"We in the Idaho Air Guard have been looking for a way to show our appreciation to the surrounding communities for the support they've provided us over the years," said Col. Sherrie McCandless,



Boise Mayor Dave Bieter stands next to an Idaho Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt II of the 124th Fighter Wing stationed at Gowen Field, Idaho. The small, blue picture of Idaho is one of two pieces of art intended to honor the communities throughout the state. Photo by Maj. Chris Borders, Idaho National Guard Public Affairs

124th Fighter Wing commander. "This is our way of thanking these communities, and to let citizens know just how important their support has been and will be as we look to our future."

Historically, nose art was used to personalize combat aircraft and boost unit morale. World War II was an era where artwork was in high demand, and extravagant creations

highlighted unit pride and cohesion.

Today, the United States Air Force allows specialized artwork for fighter aircraft that is distinctive and symbolic to enhance unit morale.

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